

**Commission on Affordable Health Care Plans for Small Businesses and Families
July 18 Meeting**

Instructions

Ground Rules

Listen
Participate and be verbal
Represent your group, yet recognize that you're part of a larger picture
Be open to others' ideas
End on time

Morning Session

Exercise One/What's Good?

Write down your thoughts about what you like best about health care or health care plans. Introduce yourself to the others (who you are and what group you represent) and explain the thing you like best about health care or health care plans. Make it a brief (30 seconds or less) explanation and introduction.

Exercise Two/Commission Priorities

Step 1: What do you think are the top two problems that need to be addressed by this commission? Examples: cover all Iowa children, help small businesses provide coverage, cost containment, low nursing wages. Decide how to describe each problem in five words or less. Write each problem on one of the note cards provided using one of the markers.

Step 2: Pair up with another commissioner. Describe to each other your choices and the reasons for your choices.

Step 3: Form groups of 5-6. Organize your cards into theme or issue areas at a table. Write a new card for each theme or issue area.

Step 4: Put the cards on the wall with the tape provided. Organize and sort.

Step 5: Discussion of results.

Exercise Three/ SWOT Analysis

Step 1: Form into groups at your assigned tables:

Groups

Donna Reed Group. Hatch, Upmeyer, Concannon, Carlyle, Aschenbrenner (**Strengths**)
Identify strengths in Iowa that will help address the health care/health care plans priorities. Look at resources, procedures and performance. Example: high quality of medical and dental care.

Buffalo Bill Group. Smith, Behn, Newton, Laue, Sporer, Shors (**Weaknesses**)

Identify weaknesses in Iowa that must be addressed regarding health care/health care plans priorities. Look at resources, procedures and performance. Example: low funding for public health initiatives.

Ann Landers Group. Bolkcom, Hoffman, Voss, Swisher, DeBruin, IHA rep (**Opportunities**)

Identify the environment beyond Iowa (nationwide and worldwide) and find the opportunities in the political, economic, social and technological trends. Example: increase in information on and access to the Internet.

Grant Wood Group. McKibben, Foege, McCully, Parrish, Teeling, Kuhle (**Threats**)

Identify the environment beyond Iowa (nationwide and worldwide) and find the threats in the political, economic, social and technological trends. Example: funding needs for other areas like Iraq, education and infrastructure improvements.

Glenn Miller Group. Ragan, Jacoby, Fuller Treinen, Kniff, Kresowik (**Sleeping Dogs**)

Identify the “things no one wants to talk about” regarding health care or health care plans in Iowa. Example: Iowa trends on increased obesity.

Step 2: Each group appoints:

- a facilitator: someone to make sure that everyone in the group gets a chance to speak, that people listen to each other, and that the group moves toward the assigned task.
- a recorder/reporter: someone to take notes on flip charts and report back to the large group (you may have staff help on this).

Step 3: Groups will thoroughly discuss their assignment, and then are free to discuss the other assignments. Bruce will provide the time allotted to the discussion and will give periodic time announcements.

Step 4: Group reports.

Afternoon Session

Exercise 4/What Do We Want?

Step 1: Return to your group tables (Reed, Bill, Landers, Wood and Miller)

Step 2: Each group appoints:

- a facilitator: someone to make sure that everyone in the group gets a chance to speak, that people listen to each other, and that the group moves toward the assigned task.
- a recorder/reporter: someone to take notes on flip charts and report back to the large group (you may have staff help on this).

Step 3: Each person writes down three values or principles that guide his or her view of what this commission needs to do. Examples: be bold, be practical, cover kids first.

Step 4: Discuss each person's choices. At initial discussion, ask questions only to clarify each person's choices. Then discuss the themes in the values and principles, noting the areas of agreement and the tensions between those themes you've identified. Bruce will provide the time allotted to the discussion and will give periodic time announcements.

Step 5: Group reports.

Exercise 5/Strategic Issues Identification

Commissioners examine the priority themes and SWOT analysis identified in the morning and values and guiding principles identified in the afternoon and pick 3-4 key strategic issues to work on for the rest of the afternoon.

Exercise 6/Strategic Issue Working Groups

Step 1: Choose the strategic issue you most want to discuss.

Step 2: Each group appoints:

- a facilitator: someone to make sure that everyone in the group gets a chance to speak, that people listen to each other, and that the group moves toward the assigned task.
- a recorder/reporter: someone to take notes on flip charts and report back to the large group (you may have staff help on this).

Step 3: The group discusses the issue and determines:

- the most important initiative
- the easiest initiative to implement (low hanging fruit)
- the most creative initiative
- the most controversial initiative
- the underlying conflicts that must be resolved to address the issue
- the information or advice that must be obtained to address the issue

Bruce will provide the time allotted to the discussion and will give periodic time announcements.

Step 4: Group reports

Exercise 7/Wrap-up

Commissioners describe the most helpful comment they heard from another commissioner member during the day.

Find one other commissioner to call before the next meeting to better understand each other's views. Exchange phone numbers and make initial plans to talk.